

Public Hearing: Appropriations Committee  
Klara Reisch – UConn Student Testimony

Good evening committee members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today, and thank you for supporting the University of Connecticut. My name is Klara Reisch, and I am a Junior at UConn majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology from Westerly, Rhode Island.

As an out-of-state student, I applied to the university not certain of whether attending would be financially feasible. I was fortunate enough to receive one of seventy-five scholarships for STEM majors through the Next Generation Connecticut Initiative which, along with other aid, supported me throughout my time at the university for a life-changing three years.

Looking back on my past time at UConn, I begin to remember all that I am so grateful to have experienced. Two months into my freshmen year, I received a research assistantship and was provided the means to conduct my own project over the summer through the honors college's Holster Grant.

Last semester, I was afforded the opportunity to travel to North Africa, fully-funded by CLAS, to participate in the United Nation's foremost climate change conference. While at UConn, I have received a phenomenal education and have grown and developed alongside so many amazing mentors, professors, students, and friends.

Yet, only through the University of Connecticut's decision to invest in me and my future, were these opportunities realized, and further budget cuts would not only continue to marginalize students by raising tuition, but it would also threaten the quality and integrity of a leader in public higher education.

Therefore, I urge you to keep investing. Invest in students who deserve the same quality and affordability of education that we should expect from a flagship university. Invest in the future of Connecticut, and invest in a university that prides itself on leadership, diversity, research, innovation, and growth. I thank you again, and I hope you will maintain full support for our university and help us to keep investing.

Thank you.